

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment for a PCB Total Maximum Daily
Load Study in the Elizabeth River and Lower James River Watersheds

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for the Elizabeth River mainstem, branches and several tributaries as well as the middle-lower portions of the James River and major tributaries, on **Wednesday December 1, 2010**. The meeting will start at **6:00 p.m. in the DEQ-Tidewater Regional Office located at 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach**.

There are several impaired estuarine and tributary segments in the James River and Elizabeth River watersheds that were identified in the 2006 and 2008 Water Quality Assessment and Integrated Reports due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) in fish tissue. The PCB-impaired segments include the entire mainstem of the James River, from the fall line to the mouth and major tributaries: Nansemond River, Pagan River, Jones Creek, Chuckatuck and Brewers Creeks, and Bennett Creek. For the purpose of this meeting, the portion of the James River covered in this region will extend southward from the Chickahominy River. Included in the Elizabeth River watershed are the main channel, the Western, Southern and Eastern Branches, St. Julian's Creek, Deep Creek, Broad Creek, and Willoughby Bay.

The purpose of the study will be to identify sources in the watersheds and to determine the reductions in loadings needed to meet the water quality goals. The TMDL will be used to determine a Water Quality Endpoint. Because violations of Virginia's water quality standards for PCB in fish tissue have been detected, the objective of the PCB TMDL will be to ensure the "fishing" designated use in the river is supported to allow consumption of fish protective of human health.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from December 2, 2010 to January 3, 2011. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov.

* Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.